

Service for the Lord's Day

Christmas Morning

Sunday, December 25, 2016

He is Born!

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

Glory to God in the highest! And on earth peace to all!

Gathering

PRELUDE "What Is this Lovely Fragrance" Hamm

WELCOME Jimmy Chapman

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Now let us pray together:

There is good news of great joy for all! The Holy Child is born – the Messiah, the Lord. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

*INTROIT #113 "Angels We Have Heard on High" Chadwick, 1860

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Have you heard? Something new has happened upon the earth!

Yes, we've heard! We heard that He's our Savior! The Son of God is born!

People of God, it's true! Unto us – yes, unto US is born this day in the city of Bethlehem, the Holy Child, God's own Son!

This is good news of great joy which has come to all people everywhere!

Let us sing praise to our Lord and Savior.

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to God! Amen!

*HYMN #115 "Away in a Manger" Murray, 1887

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emmanuel has come to earth, bringing salvation to all. God's ways are not our ways. God's ways are magnificent! Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins together first silently, then together using the words in the bulletin.

SILENT PRAYER (A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Light, who shines in deepest darkness, we hear you calling us out of hopelessness into hope. But we are frightened by your call. We are afraid of taking chances. We are afraid of following your light, because it leads us into the places where you need us. We don't want to see how much your people hurt. We don't want to see your light shining in the eyes of our neighbor. Yet we know that in those places, your grace shines. Help us to seek your light. Guide us in your way. For we pray in the name of the Light of the World. Amen

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison

*"Lord, have mercy upon us,
Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us."*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is light! In God there is no darkness! Arise! Shine! Our light has come! In the name of the Child named Jesus, we are forgiven!

We are forgiven. Our future awaits us with hope – great hope once again. We will walk in the light of God's grace! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.* #580

Proclaiming

ANTHEM "In the Bleak Mid-winter" Rosetti/Holst
(Bert Lowe, Soloist)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7 Bibles, p.600/LG. p.780
The Word of the Lord *Thanks be to God*

HYMN #128 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Reed, 1921

SECOND SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-20 Bibles, p.54/ LG. p.71
The Word of God, for the People of God *Thanks be to God*

SERMON "The Gift of God" Rev. Candice L. Klein

